

lumen adjacent to a selected portion of tissue to be resected, the operating capsule including a suturing assembly and defining a cutting zone adjacent to the suturing assembly; and

a tissue grabber drawing the selected portion of tissue into the cutting zone, wherein the suturing assembly fastens together portions of tissue adjacent to the selected portion of tissue.

38. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the suturing assembly includes an anvil and a stapling mechanism movably coupled to one another for movement between a closed position and a tissue receiving position.

41. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 36, further comprising a control handle which, when the operating capsule is in an operative position within a body lumen, remains outside the body, and a first flexible control element extending from the control handle through the sheath to the operating head.

43. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the anvil and the stapling mechanism are rotatably coupled to one another for movement between the closed and tissue receiving positions.

44. (Amended) A system for resecting tissue from within a body lumen, comprising:
a flexible endoscope;
an operating head selectively coupleable to the endoscope, the operating head including an anvil and a stapling mechanism moveable with respect to one another between a closed position in which the anvil and the stapling mechanism are adjacent to one another and a tissue receiving position in which the anvil is separated from the stapling mechanism;
a flexible sheath extending from a proximal end of the operating head so that, when the operating head is in an operative position within a body lumen, a proximal end of the flexible sheath extends out of the body lumen; and

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a control handle coupled to the proximal end of the flexible sheath.

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47. (Amended) The system of claim 45, wherein the operating head further comprises a position adjusting mechanism for adjusting the position of the anvil relative to the stapling mechanism, the system further comprising a position adjusting flexible control member extending between the control handle and the position adjusting mechanism.

48. (Amended) The system of claim 47, wherein the position adjusting mechanism moves the anvil and the stapling mechanism relative to one another between the tissue receiving position and a stapling position in which the anvil and the stapling mechanism are separated by a predetermined gap, wherein the predetermined gap is smaller than a separation between the anvil and the stapling mechanism when in the tissue receiving position.

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49. (Amended) A method for resecting tissue from within a body lumen, comprising the steps of:

- a. inserting an operating head coupled to a flexible endoscope into a body lumen, wherein the operating head includes an anvil and a stapling mechanism;
- b. advancing the operating head over the endoscope within the body lumen to a desired position relative to a selected portion of tissue to be resected;
- c. moving at least one of the anvil and the stapling mechanism relative to the other from a closed position in which the anvil and the stapling mechanism are adjacent to one another to a tissue receiving position in which the anvil is separated from the stapling mechanism;
- d. drawing the selected portion of tissue into a tissue receiving chamber within the operating head;
- e. moving at least one of the anvil and the stapling mechanism relative to the other from the tissue receiving position to a stapling position in which a surrounding portion of tissue adjacent to the selected portion of tissue is clamped between the anvil and the stapling mechanism;
- f. stapling the surrounding portion of tissue; and